Given the overall world recession and South / East Asian crisis impacting on export growth prospects in various categories, the export targets may need revision.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiativs, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. A Cabinet Committee on Foreign trade has also been set up to review the export performance.

Cardamom Export

788. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cardamom export from the country has registered a steel fall in the last two decades;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for decline in export of Cardamom are as follows:

(i) Uncompetitive prices of Indian cardamom in the international market vis-a-vis Guatemalan cardamom.

(ii) Stiff price competition offered by Guatemalan cardamom on account of its large production, high productivity and large exportable surpluses on account of absence of domestic demand.

(iii) Shift in consumer preference in the Middle-East markets towards the low priced Guatemalan cardamom.

(c) Some of the steps taken to boost export of cardamom include inter-alia;

(i) exemption of cess on export of cardamom;

(ii) reimbursement of air freight charges at the rate of Rs. 20 per Kg. for export of small cardamom in consumer packs by air to Middle-East destinations;

(iii) sponsoring trade delegations and participation in trade fairs abroad.

Export of Horticulture Products From A.P.

789. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture and processed Food Products Export Development Authority propose to set up an industrial estate for food processing units in Kuppam in chittor district (A.P.) for boosting exports of horticulture products;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Andhra Pradesh Government thereto; and

(c) the grants proposed to be given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authroity has a scheme for extending financial assistance for setting up of special infrastructural facilities and for conducting feasibility studies relating to export promotion of agro products. Under the above scheme assistance and be provided to the State Government on receipt of a proposal for the same.